

Janice O'Connell

From: Janice O'Connell
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2009 5:46 PM
To: 'ashley.orr@mail.house.gov'
Subject: FW: Signing of Turkey/Armenia Protocols

Dear Ashley:

On behalf of the Government of Turkey I wanted to bring you up to date on recent developments with respect to the ongoing Turkey/Armenia normalization process which took place on Saturday, October 11, 2009, in Zurich Switzerland.

Below is a news letter prepared by the Embassy of Turkey that outlines steps taken by the two governments yesterday.

Thank you for your continued interest in matters related to Turkey.

Turkey and Armenia Take Historic Step Closer to Normalization

11.10.2009

Turkish and Armenian Foreign Ministers sign protocols

October 11, 2009 – In Zurich, Switzerland, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian yesterday signed two protocols [Protocol on Development of Relations; Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations] that will move their two nations closer to normalization and establishment of diplomatic relations.

The Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey hosted the ceremony and, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union Javier Solana, and Council of Europe Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Slovenian Foreign Minister Samuel Zbogar also attended the ceremony standing with Ministers Davutoglu and Nalbandian in Zurich.

In the ensuing process, the Turkish and Armenian governments will submit the protocols to their respective parliaments for ratification.

Turkey and Armenia have been engaged in negotiations towards normalization of relations and, with the Swiss government's assistance, they agreed on August 31 [Press Release of The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of The Republic of Turkey, The Republic of Armenia and The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs] to begin six weeks of internal political consultations on the protocols before their formal endorsement by the two foreign ministers yesterday.

This information is being distributed by Gephardt Government Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Turkey. Additional information regarding the Gephardt Government Affairs representation of the Government of Turkey is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC

Sincerely, Janice O'Connell, Senior Vice President, Gephardt Government Affairs.

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